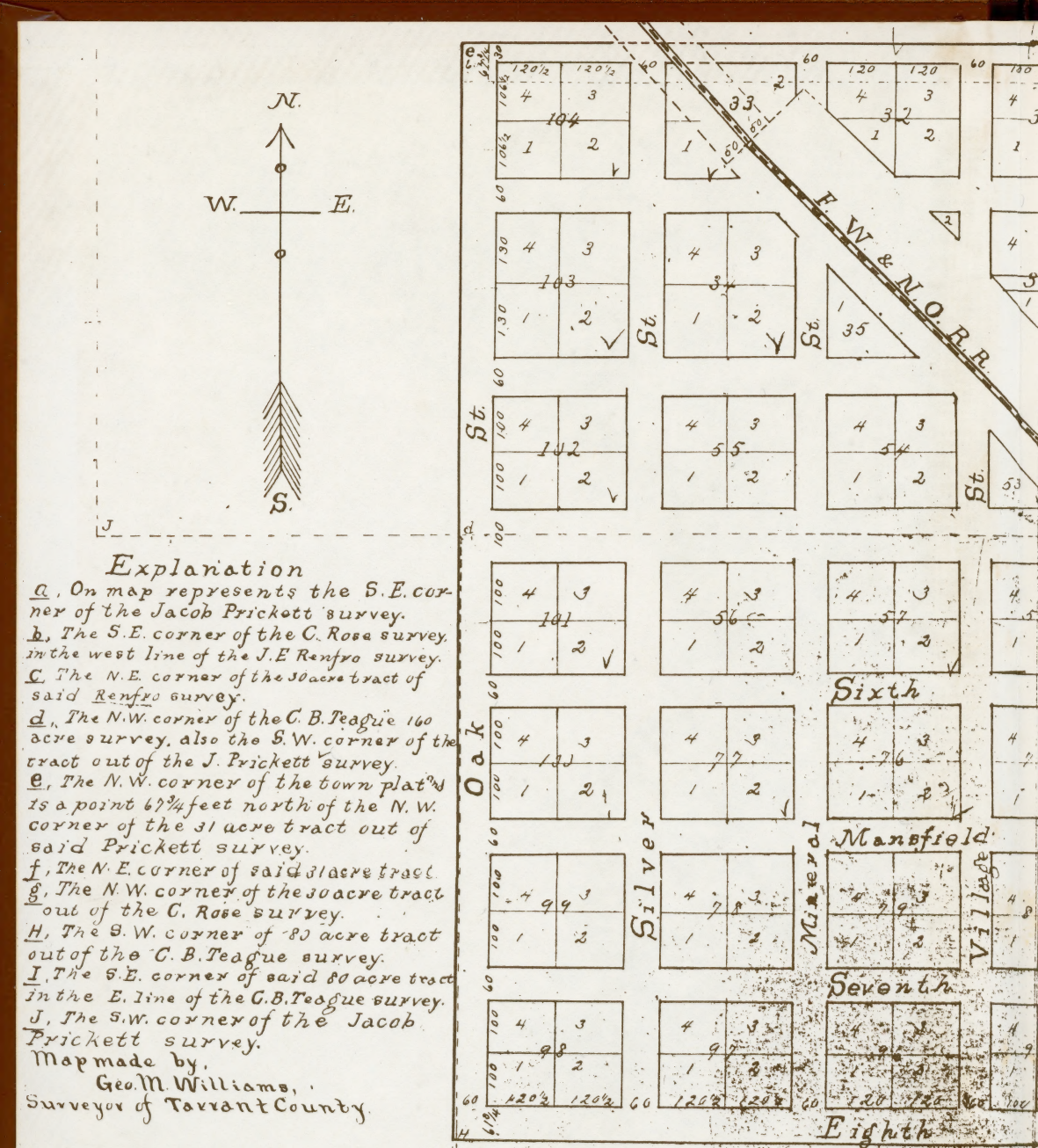


City of Kennedale
1882 - 1976



Explanation

a, On map represents the S.E. corner of the Jacob Prickett survey.
b, The S.E. corner of the C. Rose survey, in the west line of the J.E Renfro survey.
C, The N.E. corner of the 30 acre tract of said Renfro survey.
d, The N.W. corner of the C. B. Teague 160 acre survey, also the S.W. corner of the tract out of the J. Prickett survey.
e, The N.W. corner of the town plat is a point 67¾ feet north of the N.W. corner of the 31 acre tract out of said Prickett survey.
f, The N.E. corner of said 31 acre tract.
g, The N.W. corner of the 30 acre tract out of the C. Rose survey.
H, The S.W. corner of 80 acre tract out of the C. B. Teague survey.
I, The S.E. corner of said 80 acre tract in the E. line of the C.B. Teague survey.
J, The S.W. corner of the Jacob Prickett survey.

Map made by,
Geo. M. Williams,
Surveyor of Tarrant County.

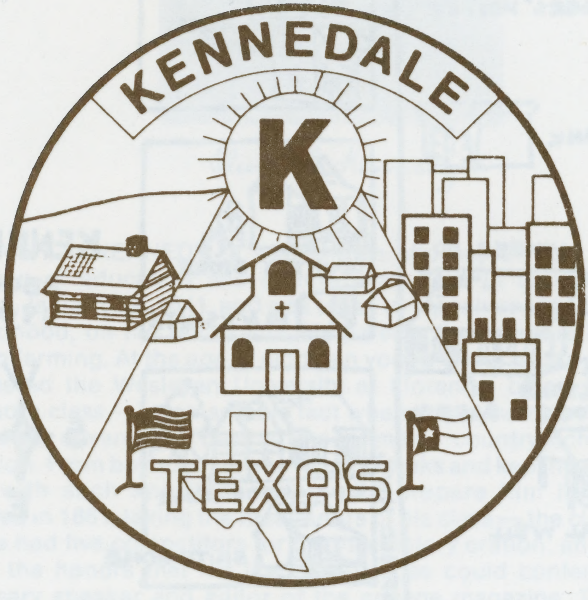
I, as surveyor, certify that the above is a true and correct map of the plan of Riverside Tarrant County, Texas, as laid off by me on the ground
Given under my hand at the City of Fort Worth Texas This 11th day of Nov. A.D. 1916
G. M. Williams Surveyor of Tarrant County Texas

The above Map of the Plan of the Town of Riverside is hereby



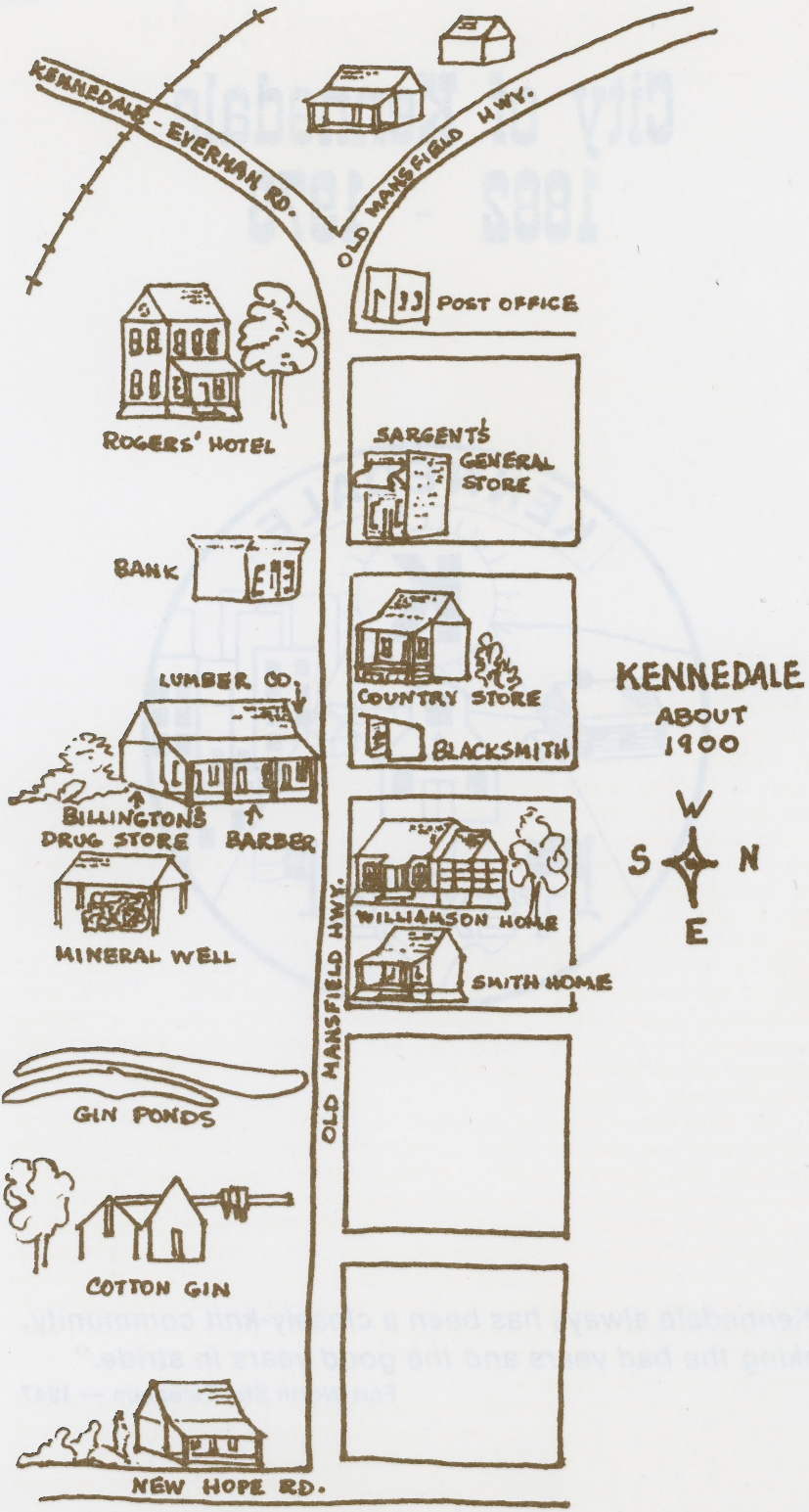
The State of Texas. } Be fore me a Notary Public in and
County of Tarrant. } County on this day personally appeared
of the Fort Worth & New Orleans Railway Company, Officers S. Kenn
C. F. Teague, W. C. Hunter, Thos Rocke and J. J. Rocke to me known to be
names are subscribed to the foregoing Plat & acknowledged that

City of Kennedale
1882 - 1976



"Kennedale always has been a closely-knit community, taking the bad years and the good years in stride."

Fort Worth Star Telegram — 1947


KENNEDALE - EVERMAN RD.
OLD MANSFIELD HWY.
POST OFFICE
ROGERS' HOTEL
SARGENT'S GENERAL STORE
BANK
COUNTRY STORE
BLACKSMITH
LUMBER CO.
BILLINGTON'S DRUG STORE
BARBER
MINERAL WELL
WILLIAMSON HOME
SMITH HOME
OLD MANSFIELD HWY.
GIN PONDS
COTTON GIN
NEW HOPE RD.
KENNEDALE
ABOUT
1900
W
S
N
E

KENNEDALE FOUNDERS



Oliver S. Kennedy

OLIVER S. KENNEDY, a well known attorney of Fort Worth and a gentleman of education and culture, was born in Lauderdale county, Alabama, January 24, 1841, and was taken to Tippah county, Mississippi, in his childhood, on the removal of his parents there, where his father engaged in farming. At the age of eighteen young Oliver returned to Alabama and entered the Wesleyan University at Florence, being placed in the sophomore class — a remarkable fact when it is remembered that he had received no advantages beyond the primitive country school and self-instruction. From boyhood he was fond of books and kept his youthful mind stored with such knowledge as would prepare him for college. He graduated in 1861, taking the first honors of his class — the class of 1861 — when he had five competitors for the valedictory oration; and he received also all the honors that his literary societies could confer, — those of anniversary speaker and editor of the college magazine. The university suspended about a month before the June commencement because of the feeling of unrest and anxiety of the "boys" to go into the Confederate army before the war should close.

Mr. Kennedy enlisted as a private in Company C. Sixteenth Alabama Infantry and was elected Third Lieutenant upon the organization of the company. This regiment went at once to Cumberland Gap and fought the battle of Fishing Creek, during which engagement Mr. Kennedy arose out of a sick-bed to perform his part. At Knoxville, 1861, he was made Adjutant of his regiment and the next year was promoted Captain, just before the battle of Shiloh, in which famous contest he participated, commanding the left wing of his regiment as Lieutenant Colonel, the field officers being absent. Soon after this, he left the army because of ill health and was not again able for field duty. Twice afterward, however, he tried the commissary department, but could not remain.

When the war was over and peace again reigned, Mr. Kennedy engaged in civil pursuits and began active preparation for law practice. He studied under the preceptorship of Judge W. B. Wood and was admitted to practice by that gentleman, then circuit judge. At length he entered politics, at once

allying himself with the Democratic party, and was active in its resurrection in his county and State, placing himself in front when the old men of the party would not take the initiatory for fear of being imprisoned by the Federal authorities and of losing their property by confiscation. He was the first chairman of the Democratic county committee after the war, and was a member of the State executive committee for eight years. He made an open fight and carried the Democratic ticket through in his county, taking a prominent part in the decisions of all the political issues of the day in the State. He attended the State conventions at his own expense, and without any understanding as to official preferment; has been active in public matters in Texas; was always found on the side of honesty, fairness and purity of the ballot; did his share in every campaign, proclaiming his fealty to the Democracy, and expounded its principles unmistakably and vigorously.

He was a Trustee of the Polytechnic College and a Steward in the Methodist Church, South.

He arrived in Fort Worth April 13, 1877.

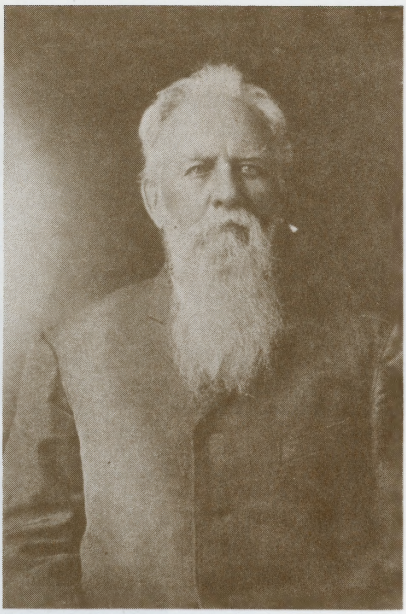
JOHN D. HUDSON, prosperous farmer and enterprising citizen, residing near Kennedale, Tarrant county, Texas, was a son of one of the earliest pioneers of this State, and did himself live in Texas ever since he was three years old.

Mr. Hudson was born in Mississippi, January 5, 1835, and came with his parents to Texas in 1838, settling in Shelby county, and there spending his youthful days. Since 1855 he was identified with Tarrant county. During the late war he was in the Government service. He enlisted in 1862, was detailed to the Quartermaster's department and located at Dallas, where he had charge to teams, continuing there until the close of the war. Mr. Hudson had been married only a short time before he entered the service, and had a comfortable home, good farm and nice herd of cattle. Upon his return after the war, he found only fifteen of his cattle left, and his farm in bad shape; but he was not to be discouraged, and with renewed energy set about the work of repairing his losses. As time passed by prosperity crowned his earnest efforts and he was ranked with the leading men of his community. In 1874 he built a gin, which he ran in connection with his farming operations. This gin was burned in 1876, but was immediately rebuilt. In 1882 he was one of three gentlemen, the other two being O. S. KENNEDY and C. B. TEAGUE, who bought land and located the town of Kennedale, on the Texas Central Railroad, ten miles southeast of Fort Worth. This place is noted for its mineral wells, fourteen medical properties found in the water and was recommended by physicians for rheumatism and dropsy. Mr. Hudson built a store here, opened out a stock of general merchandise, and continued in business for ten years, also serving as post-master during that time, and in 1892 he returned to his farm, three miles from the town, his family being on the farm all the while. In 1888 he began the manufacture of brick at a place about half a mile from his home, both his brick-yard and gin being located on the railroad, where he had excellent shipping facilities, and both still being conducted by him. The town of Kennedale had a population of about 300 and was constantly growing. Mr. Hudson always held interest in the place and was always ready to aid in advancing any measures of enterprise intended to benefit it.

Mr. Hudson always took a commendable interest in political affairs. He served as Constable and Deputy Sherriff four years, and twice was nominated for Tax Collector on the third-party ticket. He was raised a Democrat. Fraternally he was identified with the Masons and the Odd Fellows. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church.



Mary A. Adams Rodgers



Thomas F. Rodgers

EARLY SETTLERS

THOMAS F. RODGERS, a resident of Kennedale, was one of the most prominent farmers and stockraisers of Tarrant County, Texas.

Thomas was born in Stewart County, Georgia, April 20, 1835 and until he was twenty-one, his life was spent on the farm there with his parents. Upon reaching his majority in 1856, he went west to the Territory of Kansas, and located on a tract of land seven miles from Topeka, where he developed a small farm.

He married Miss Mary A. Adams in 1857. Mary was born in Kentucky, January 19, 1842, daughter of Edward Adams. In 1858, Thomas sold his claim in Kansas and came to Texas, making the journey with a two-horse wagon and settling in Kennedale. He at first bought 160 acres of State land, for which he paid fifty cents an acre. In 1862, he enlisted in the Fourteenth Texas Cavalry, Colonel Johnson's regiment. After he was discharged due to illness, he returned home to work on his farm. To his original purchase of land, he added from time to time until he had 1,273 acres; 765 acres of which were under cultivation. Thomas and Mary ran the hotel of Kennedale for several years, taking a special pride in their work. There were five children born to Thomas and Mary: James M., John Henry, David, Thomas F., and Mary A. Thomas F. Rodgers died in Kennedale, Texas, November 8, 1906 and was later followed by Mary, September 18, 1912. They were both buried in the Rodgers cemetery in Kennedale.

One of the children of Thomas and Mary was John Henry Rodgers, born October 30, 1861. He was county commissioner, post mail deliverer, and one of the men along with Matt Estes who ran the Bank of Kennedale. John H. married Medora Poole, and they had six children. Three of the children are still residents of Kennedale. One daughter and two grandchildren still live on the Rodgers homeplace, located on Kennedale Sublett Road. John Henry died on May 10, 1937, and was followed by Medora several years later in May. They were also buried in the Rodgers cemetery.

Jessie Rodgers Richardson daughter of John and Medora also was employed by the postal service, as her father. She served as postmistress in Kennedale for 18 years, from 1953 to 1971.

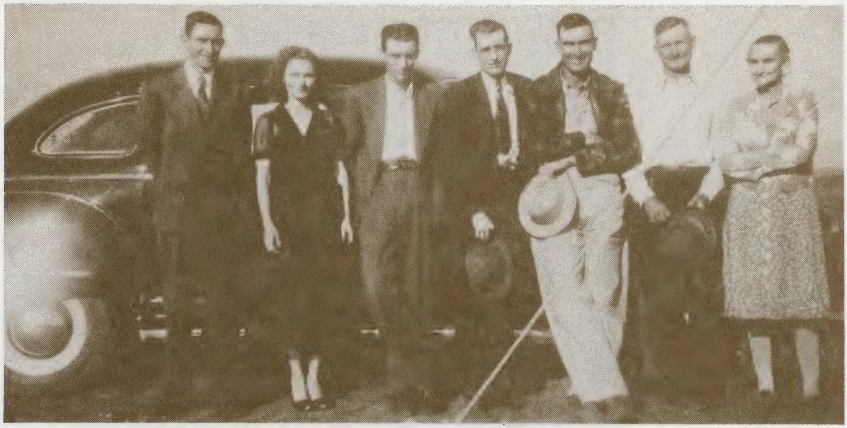
Ben Middleton, grandson of John and Medora, started working at the Kennedale Post Office in 1969 and has served as postmaster since 1971.



John Henry Rodgers



Rodgers Family Portrait



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cooper with five of their children



Beautiful flower garden

SAMUEL COOPER moved to Kennedale as an infant in 1883 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cooper. They came from Hillsboro, Texas, but were originally from North Carolina.

His wife, the former Cleopatra Brown, was born in 1883, four years after her family moved to Kennedale from Cottage Grove, Tennessee.

Samuel and Cleopatra were members of the Methodist Church and attended Methodist meetings at the First Baptist Church building, which was shared by the two denominations. They were married there, Mother's Day, May 8, 1904.

Mr. Cooper worked at the brickyard, and they built their home in Kennedale in 1927. Samuel and Cleopatra were the parents of seven children.

In the later years of their lives, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper obtained some local fame for the hundreds of beautiful blooms in the flower gardens surrounding their home. They were very proud of their garden and spent many hours working there.

Samuel Cooper passed away in 1969 and was followed by Cleopatra in 1973. Their home, located at Kenny and Fourth Street, was renovated and is now the clinic of Dr. W. R. Harris.



J. A. Alphin and his horse "Dick"

J. A. ALPHIN was born in 1867 in Deridder, Louisiana. Upon reaching the age of 20 he moved to Arlington, Texas. Two years later, in 1899 he married Mary E. Collins, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Collins who were also from Arlington.

J. A. and Mary moved to Kennedale in 1894, where he worked at numerous occupations and was constable for the city. In 1900 Kennedale elected Mr. Alphin and Mr. Jim Henry for the first Rural Mail Carriers, and at this time, Mr. Charlie Wilson was postmaster. The people on his route were able to buy pencils, tablets, stamps and envelopes from his mail buggy. Mr. Alphin continued to carry mail for Kennedale until he retired in 1932, after 32 years of service for the government. He and Mary had four children from their marriage.

Mr. Alphin's wife, Mary died in 1903; several years later, he married Mrs. Nora Aldrich, they had three children.

One of the children of Mary and J. A. was May Alphin, born on November 2, 1891 in Arlington, Texas. At the age of 3, she moved with her family to Kennedale, where she was raised. In 1909 and 1910 May worked as a teacher's aid for the Kennedale school under the supervision of principal, Mr. Andrews.

A year after Mr. Alphin's family came to Kennedale the family of Thomas P. Moore settled in Kennedale in the year 1895, bringing with them 9 children. One of their sons, Brooks Moore, was born on December 3, 1888 in Dallas, Texas.

May Alphin became the bride of Brooks on December 25, 1910; they made their home in Kennedale and are still residents of this city. May and Brooks are faithful members of the United Methodist Church near their home. They are also the oldest living ex-students of Kennedale school.



Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Moore

TONY S. PETERMAN was born in 1865 in Lafayette, Indiana. His family settled outside Kennedale in 1873, where he lived until 1895. After his marriage to America Bell in 1895, they moved to Kennedale; where they rented a two-room house for $5.00 a month. Tony and America had eight children: Gale, Meda, Vesta, Fay, Bert, Tony, Mortie and Molly. In 1897, they purchased their homeplace, where three of the children still reside.

Mr. Peterman was educated by his wife. He made a good living for his family. Some of the businesses he owned in the town were a blacksmith shop and a garage. In 1876, he bought part interest in a brickyard from Miss Lucy Sargeant; the bricks were used in the construction of the original post office, which still stands on Broadway Street. In 1901, he also purchased the cotton gin from Mr. Hudson; the men who worked at the gin were paid $1.00 a day for their labor. In later years, he sold half-interest in the gin to Mr. J. M. Estes.

Mr. Peterman died in Kennedale in 1940.



Early family portrait

CITY SERVICES

Fort Worth Star Telegram article July 11, 1947 by C. L. Richart — Staff Writer

KENNEDALE CALM OVER VILLAGE STATUS ELECTION FAILS TO JAR EASY, RURAL LIFE

Kennedale, July 11 — Everything is about the same and the folks don't seem the least bit excited over the fact that this sprawling Tarrant County farm community and fast growing rural residential area now has become a village.

The vote last week to incorporate Kennedale after 66 years as a school district community center was a light one but legal, and some time within the next two or three weeks another election will be held to choose a mayor and other town officials.

Kennedale always has been a closely-knit community, taking the bad years and the good years in stride. Becoming a village has not caused anything like the interest among Kennedale residents that the building of Highway 34 — the old-timers still call it the "slab road" — inspired in the community about 13 years ago.

The highway followed a line straight through the school district, bypassing the center of the original settlement on the old "hot top" road to Mansfield and along the old H&TC Railway (now Southern Pacific). Most of Kennedale's business establishments have since located along the highway that carries a parade of heavy traffic, but the postoffice and few stores still cling to the original site mapped by O. S. Kennedy about 1881.

The decision to develop a settlement at the site came after Kennedy, John D. Hudson and Col. C. B. Teague had dug a water well. They struck mineral water and had visions of building up a health resort. The original well and one other one dug later still are in use in a stone building near the old community center. The wells have been owned and the water prescribed for many years by Dr. J. A. Hammack, 83-year old physician who has practiced in the community since 1901.

One of the oldest native residents of Kennedale, Robert C. (Bob) Williamson, 71 year old landowner, is proud of Kennedale's past and enthusiastic about its future. He was one of the 42 residents who took enough interest to go to the polls and vote for incorporation. Only seven votes were cast against the move.

Boundaries of the new village, now only three miles south of Fort Worth's expanded limits, will be the same as those of the school district area of which is about 13½ square miles.

Leaders of the move to incorporate are A. L. Bulin, a building contractor and chairman of the citizen's committee and J. A. Arthur, superintendent for 12 years of the Kennedale 10-grade school. The district's school census shows 323 children of school age.

Many new homes are being built in the Kennedale area and many of its estimated 800 or 900 residents are in business or are employed in Fort Worth. Arthur is developing a residential area himself, planning 142 lots for homes near the school.

Kennedale's rolling hills are dotted with big postoak and other trees. Most of the residents have an acre or more of land and many of them have a cow, chickens and a garden. Most homes have gas, electric lights, running water, furnished from their own wells. Many of them also have Fort Worth telephone listings.

Perhaps the dream of surveyor Kennedy (that's where Kennedale got its name) to build a town at the site is just beginning to come true.

Mayors



A. L. Bulin
September 1947 – April 1950
March 1953 – February 1954



B. T. Webb
April 1950 – March 1953
April 1964 – June 1967
April 1968 – April 1970



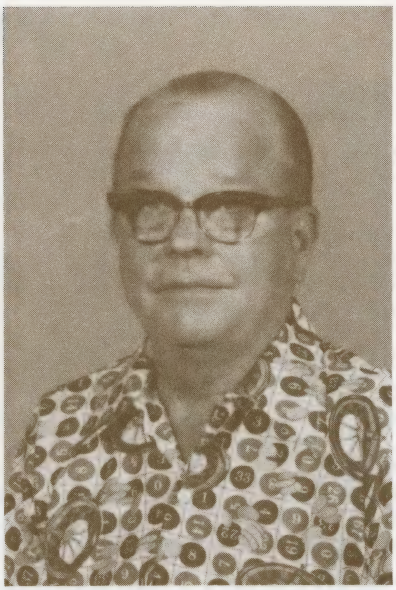
V. A. Turpin
February 1954 – April 1954
November 1954 – April 1956



N. T. Childres
April 1956 – April 1964
April 1972 – April 1976



W. R. Horton
June 1967 – April 1968



Bob Platt
April 1970 – July 1971



J. H. Martin
July 1971 – April 1972



Steve Radokavich
April 1976 – Present

W. R. Martin, Jr.
April 1954 – November 1954
(picture not available)

City Leaders



City Council
George Lowery, Stanley Jernigan, Bill Bishop, Pat Turner, Clara Sanderson



Chamber of Commerce Directors
Glen Long, George Roberts, J. W. Teague, Inez Keithley, Jerry Foreman, Stephen Love, N. T. Childres



Jack Yates
City Administrator



Wayne Winters
President Chamber of Commerce



Paul Mathis
Tax Assessor-Collector



First City Hall

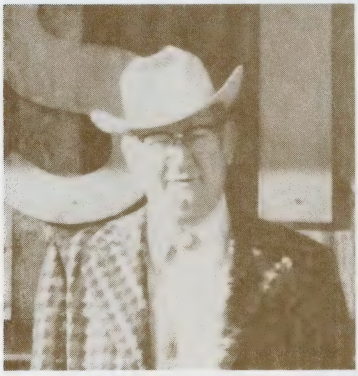


Present City Hall

City Police Department



Police Station



Dave Foster
City's First Policeman



Karl L. Halverson
Chief of Police

Volunteer Fire Department

Fort Worth Star Telegram article April 6, 1950 by Tony Slaughter

KENNEDALE HAS OWN FIRE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE CITIZENS CO-OPERATED ON JOB

Kennedale, April 6 — Residents of Kennedale bought a fire truck through contributions to protect their property, then organized an association to see that the truck serves its purpose.

With wives doing most of the soliciting for funds, the men took a $600 truck which the city purchased, beat out the bent fenders and doors, bought a can of paint and equipped the truck that couldn't be replaced for $8,000.

Even the Baptist preacher came to the square dance that raised $400, said a wife of a fire member.

Another $600 was raised at a meeting of the residents and now the Kennedale Fire Association has $400 in the treasury. The Texas Electric Service Company contributed $50 and an individual kicked in $60.

Owens-Brumley Funeral Home in Fort Worth donated a siren. A man from Kennedale contributed a ladder.

The truck is equipped with an 800-gallon tank, 350 feet of three fourth-inch hose, 200 feet of 1½ inch hose and a 500 gallon per minute pump.

L. F. Johnson, Clyde Brown and J. Moore did the welding on the truck. R. E. Adams did the body work and painting and William Cromer, Holman Warren and W. W. Gillespie did miscellaneous work while Mortie Peterman, the chief, tuned the motor.

The truck will be stationed at Peterman's service station until a city hall is constructed. The new department didn't get in the new Fort Worth telephone directory so Peterman's number, LA-9005, will be used in the daytime and Gillespie, the assistant chief, has loaned use of his number LA-9872 for night alarms.

Alex Flake has been named president of the association; Gillespie, vice president and assistant chief; Harold Evans, secretary-treasurer, and B. T. Webb, recorder.

Webb, Tuesday was elected Kennedale's mayor.

As soon as the new association gets its charter Kennedale will seek lower fire insurance rates.

Chief Peterman still is waiting for that Fort Worth firm to bring out the chief's white hat and coat as promised.



Fire Station



Mortie Peterman
First Fire Chief



Gerald Bryan
Present fire Chief

Kennedale Post Office



Post Office



Postmaster
Ben Middleton and
Bettie Long



Postmistress
Jessie Richardson
Retired Sept. 30, 1971

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Harmony 76 Park



Kennedale Nursing Home



Community Center
Home of Senior Citizens



Emerald Hills Memorial Park

The original section of what is now Emerald Hills Memorial Park was purchased in 1907; and the first burial was made in February of that same year. The first directors of the cemetery, then known as the Kennedale Cemetery, were Thomas Moore, J. A. Alphin and Sam P. Brown.

In 1955, Emerald Hills was chartered as a non profit perpetual care cemetery, and there are three endowment trust funds assuring permanent care. There will ultimately be 35 acres in Emerald Hills, with 7 acres being used today.

Veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American, World Wars I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts have been laid to rest in Emerald Hills.

PHYSICIANS



Dr. Edward L. Nix
1842 – 1911

DR. E. L. NIX, his wife, Ira, and their six children boarded a train from Kansas in April, 1891. They were bound for the recently settled town of Kennedale, Texas. It was his hope that the change in climate would be beneficial in the treatment of his wife's health.

The trip to Texas held tragedy for the doctor's family. As they passed through Muskogee Indian Territory, the doctor's twelve-year-old daughter, Lillian, was kidnapped. Her body was recovered six weeks later in Red River.

In the meantime, they had settled into their home. Dr. Nix and his family met the finest and kindest people in Kennedale. Before the year 1891 was gone, Ira, the doctor's wife, had passed on.

In 1894, Dr. Nix married Maggie Ella Brown. There was one child, Grace, born to his second marriage.

Dr. Nix practiced medicine in Kennedale until moving to Choctaw, Oklahoma in 1901. He returned to Kennedale in 1904. Although in ill health, Dr. Nix continued to practice medicine. He made calls on horse back or by horse and buggy. He would sometimes stay with a seriously ill patient until the crisis was over.

Dr. Nix died in 1911.



Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Hammack

Dr. J. A. Hammack was born in Scooba, Mississippi on January 22, 1864. He was educated at West Alabama College, the University of Mississippi, Fort Worth Medical College, and St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Hammack was attending medical school in Fort Worth when he first heard about mineral wells located in the town of Kennedale. He acquired the land in 1900 where the mineral wells were located and moved to Kennedale in 1902.

Dr. Hammack used his home for practicing medicine and made frequent house calls. He developed a medicine out of the mineral water which was mixed with an acid and other ingredients. The medicine was registered and called Hydrotone. The common name was "pink medicine" because it was a pinkish color. The process of making this tonic or medicine was similar to that of distillation. The medicine was used for the treatment of pellagra and various stomach disorders. During World War I Dr. Hammack experimented with a drug called Aconitin in the treatment of pneumonia and influenza.

During the 1930's Dr. Hammack began his residency in the Kennedale Clinic. He had a practical nurse and a eye, ear, nose and throat doctor working with him. While practicing in Kennedale, he administered smallpox innoculations at the school without charge.

Around 1950 Dr. Hammack's health started failing so he retired from medicine, this led to the closing of his clinic. He died July 3, 1956 at the age of 92.



Dr. William R. Harris

DR. W. R. HARRIS graduated from Kansas City College of Osteopathic Surgery in 1952. After completing an internship at Kansas City Osteopathic Hospital, he returned to his home in Saint Joseph, Missouri to start his practice. Dr. Harris practiced there from 1953 until 1957.

He moved to Texas in 1957. Dr. Harris opened Doctor's Clinic located in Kennedale, in July of 1958. His general practice included a six bed overnight clinic.

In 1963 he continued his specialized education at Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital. He completed his residency in General Surgery in 1964.

In December 1964 he opened the twenty-five bed Doctor's Hospital at Kennedale. Open house of the facility was held January 31, 1965. The hospital contained a complete x-ray department, general surgery and maternity unit. During the years the hospital was open, over 450 babies were delivered.

In 1976, Dr. Harris opened a new clinic in Kennedale. Open house, for the clinic at Kenny and Fourth Streets, was held on July 1, 1976. This marked the beginning of Dr. Harris' nineteenth year of general practice in Kennedale.

CHURCHES



First Baptist Church of Kennedale, loacted at Kenny and Third, can trace its history back to the last half of the 19th century. According to available records, a group of devout Baptists met for worship prior to the year 1887. In 1887, the land on which the church stands was deeded and recorded as the First Baptist Church of Kennedale at the Tarrant County Courthouse.

In 1895, Rev. G. W. Green (county missionary), W. A. Pool and Rev. D. B. Brown met to organize the Kennedale Baptist Church, and the first building was erected at that time.

There have been three buildings completed. On January 5, 1959 a spectacular fire destroyed the white brick church, the estimated loss to the church was over $100,000. A rebuilding program began with an educational building and fellowship hall. On April 1961, ground was broken for a new auditorium, which was completed and dedicated July 30, 1961.

A frame house, across the street from the church was purchased in 1976 and is being remodeled for the youth of the church.


FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
Kennedale Tex



Kennedale United Methodist Church, at Fourth and Chitwood in Kennedale, was founded shortly after 1850 at the Center Point Community, about two miles south of its present location.

In 1887, members moved to Kennedale and began holding meetings in the old school building. During the 1890's the First Baptist Church building was constructed and the Methodists were invited to meet there on Sunday afternoon.

The first permanent church for the Methodists was built in 1903 and the first parsonage the year after. In 1950, the Fellowship Hall was built, and in 1951 they built a new parsonage and the present sanctuary building. The newest addition is an Education Building, erected in 1961.







The Church of Christ was founded in 1940. Homer Steadman and Frank Burger were leaders in the establishment of the Kennedale Church and served as its first ministers.

Meetings were held in the homes of members until the first frame structure was completed. The original building was constructed by members of the church and, through the years, it was enlarged to care for the growing congregation.

In 1961, the old churchbuilding was moved to a lot across the street and a new 7,000 square foot structure was erected to provide an auditorium, twelve classrooms, a nursery, workroom, and a minister's study.

The Kennedale Church of Christ is located at New Hope Road and Broadway.

The original church building is now the Kennedale Community Center on the corner of New Hope and Broadway.



Bible Baptist Church of Kennedale, located on Third Street, was established between 1940 and 1950 by Dr. Frank Norris.

In 1954, Dr. H. M. Corey became pastor and has recently celebrated his 22nd anniversary with the church.

Twenty years ago, the congregation was small and the building was in poor condition. It was heated by a wood burning stove, wiring hung from the ceiling and no water was available for a baptistry.

Although the church has never gone into debt for improvements, many have been made. The present building is modern and comfortable and has been enlarged several times to meet the needs of a growing congregation. The spring of 1976, the auditorium was doubled in size and was extensively redecorated.



The Trinity Valley Baptist Seminary was planned and founded by a group of Independent Baptist pastors who met during July and August of 1960. Originally at another location, the second year of operation was begun in Kennedale on permanent property donated by Bethel Baptist Church of Kennedale. It is now located at 925 S. Mansfield Hwy.

The group of founding pastors saw many students come for training during the early years under the able leadership of the late Doctors, Ben F. Dearmore and Lawrence Miller, followed by Dr. H. M. Corey of Kennedale.

The building was completely remodeled and redecorated under the leadership of Dr. Loys Vess, church builder and evangelist who assumed full-time duties as president in January, 1976.



The First Assembly of God in Kennedale, at 116 East Broadway Street, was founded in 1946. The first services were held in a small building near the present location.

Robert Leed served as the first pastor followed by Robert Welton, Al Strickland, Bobby Ellington, and the present minister, Roy Drumm, who has pastored the church since 1972.

The church sponsors six overseas missionaries and has experienced a steady growth.



Kennedale Baptist Church



KENNEDALE SCHOOLS

"Advanced"

With a great deal of difficulty, we have come to the laying of the conerstone. Our people are true, but hard to get to realize the importance of education. May prosperity be blest in this undertaking.

J. A. Hammack
November 19, 1913

First records of the Kennedale School System date back to 1890, when the school was contained in a two-story frame building located east of the present administration building.

The school term at that time lasted only two months and one teacher, Mr. Wash Hudson, taught the entire school.

In 1913, the school term was extended to six months and the faculty consisted of a principal, Mr. P. T. Gribble; three teachers; and a janitor.

In that year, construction of a new two-story building was begun and Mr. Gribble placed a copper box into the cornerstone which contained the following items belonging to the students and citizens of the community.

One 1894 nickel
One Green satin ribbon
One illegible letter dated 1913
One Bluebird pin
Two Bluebird rings
One prescription receipt
One newspaper dated November 19, 1913
One postcard to Mr. McQuade
One telegraph form
One Fort Worth picture postcard
One personal card of Reverend John A. Rice
Two personal cards of J. M. Jones
One letter by Dr. J. A. Hammack
Signatures of:
Mrs. M. L. Love
Mrs. A. E. Early
Mrs. J. A. Hammack

The building was completed in 1915 and Mr. Gribble and his faculty and students proudly moved in.

In 1925, a terrific cyclone hit Kennedale. It wrecked several homes and tore off the roof and part of one wall of the school building. The damage was soon repaired.

In 1931, the school board hired a young man by the name of James A. Arthur as principal. He held that position for ten years during which time many goals were accomplished for the school system. He returned as principal in 1946 until 1952.

In 1946, a white frame structure was built at the back of the red brick building to accommodate the primary grades.

In 1949, a cream tile building (now, the Middle School) was built. The gymnasium was built in 1953 and in 1955 the red brick building was torn down after serving its final year as library and storage area.

In 1960, the school was again enlarged to accommodate the more than six hundred students. An annex was added to the rear of the building.

In 1965, a school bond election was held, making the new elementary school possible. It was to be located on a tract of land donated by Mr. James A. Arthur.

"reading,
'riting,
'rithmetic . . . ."










ENNEDALE High School
-1919-


1923


RAER STUDIO
FT. WORTH
















Merry Christmas







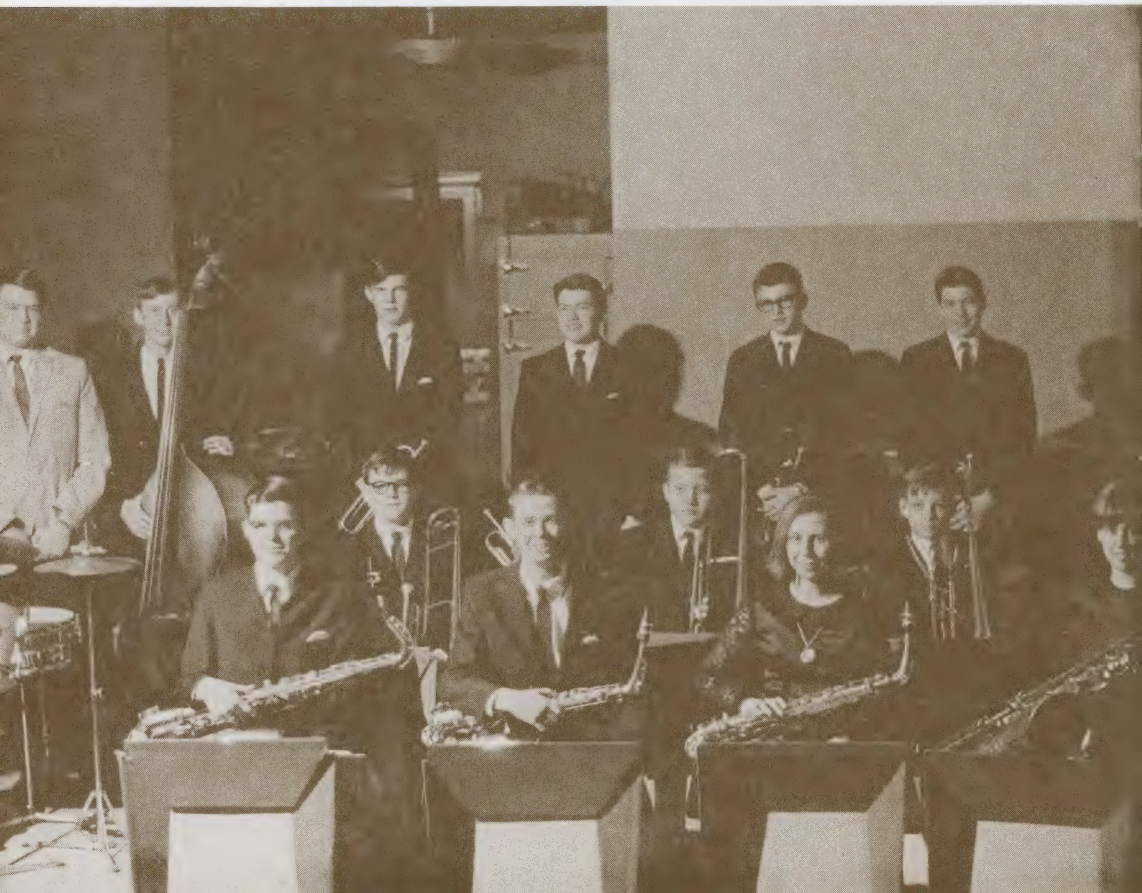














Ground was broken in 1966 for Kennedale Independent School System's new elementary school, "James A. Arthur Elementary" named for Mr. James Arthur, former principal of Kennedale School and land donor for the project. Mr. James F. Delaney has served as principal of "James A. Arthur" since 1967.

The brick building provides 17 classrooms, business office, cafeteria and library.

In 1973 older frame buildings behind the middle school were torn down and a new complex was built to provide a band hall, shop building and room for three classes. A new cyclone fence enclosed the buildings and the football field, which also was improved by the addition of new and larger bleachers.

A 2,000 square foot Administration Building was added to the campus in 1975. It housed the Superintendent Office, Board Room, Business Manager, and Tax Office.

In February of 1976 approximately two acres were purchased for the building site of a new high school. Ground Breaking Ceremonies were held June 26 and construction began July 1, 1976.

The 45,000 square foot structure will provide 18 classrooms, a library, band hall, cafetorium, gym, dressing rooms, weight room, nurses office and business office.

School Administrators plan to have the students occupy the building during the second term of the 1976-1977 school year. The present high school building will be used to expand facilities for middle school students.

First records of the Kennedale School System indicate classes were held in a frame building for only three months of the year and only one teacher was employed.

Present records of the Kennedale Independent School System show an enrollment of 893 students being taught in several schools with 72 persons employed by the system. Plans for the immediate future will greatly improve what is already a very fine school district.

The letter quoted at the beginning of this section, written in 1913, by Dr. J. A. Hammack hopefully asks "May prosperity be blest in this undertaking." We feel that the proud citizens who laid the cornerstone of their new building that day would be well pleased with their School System's "Advancement."



School Board
Robert Patterson, J. W. Lenz, Weldon Edens, George Roberts, Butch Evans, Stephen Love, Loyd Samuel



Mr. J. W. Teague
Superintendent



Administration and Tax Office



High School



Middle School



James A. Arthur Elementary

"Memories of Yesteryear"



Williamson Homestead
built 1898



Homeplace of Mr. and Mrs. George Washington Smith



Methodist & Baptist
Fellowship Picnic

Kennedale Wells Fargo and Co. Express
1911





First State Bank
Kennedale

Everman bridge



"Ready for town, Alvin?"




PROF. AULT'S CONSOLIDATED BAND



Blacksmith Shop





Fire damage of 1908



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Price



Mrs. Hazel Bulin and
Alene Langford



Brickyard

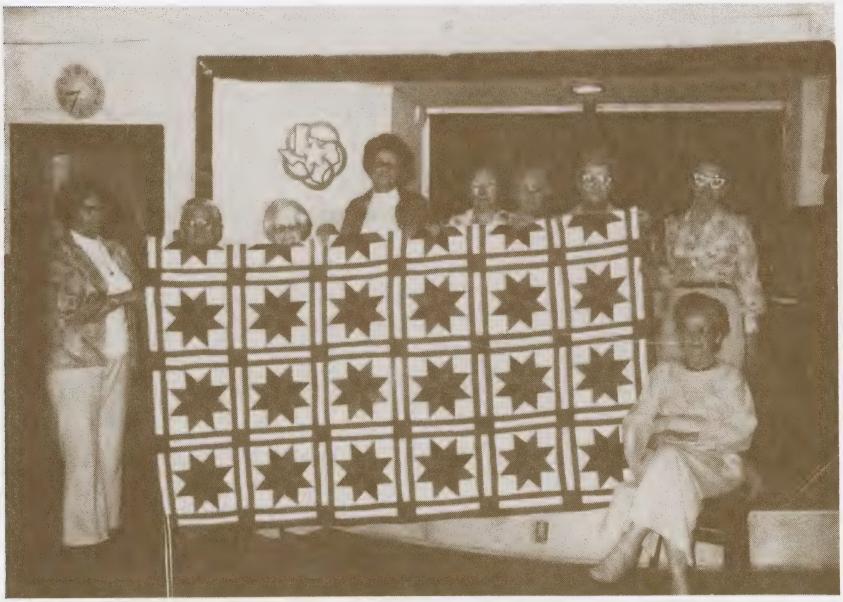
"Soda, anyone?"



"Bicentennial Festival"
May 14 & 15, 1976



Margie Lowery – Festival Chairman
Rhonda Barnes – Heritage Chairman
Pam Winters – Bicentennial Chairman
Stanley Jernigan – Horizons Chairman



Quilt raffled by Senior Citizens



Fair Exhibits



Parade





"Special Thanks" to

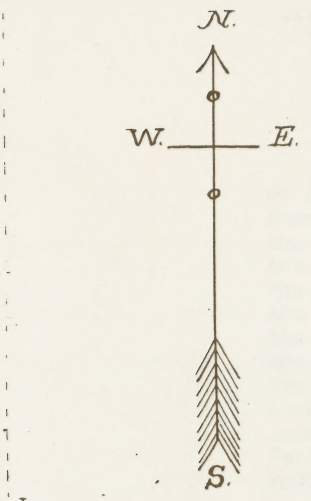
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Bulin
Miss Melba Hammack
Mrs. May Moore
Mrs. Jo Helfenstine
The Rodgers Family
Mrs. Meda Smith
Mrs. Nettie Mae Cassidy
Mrs. Grace Foust
Mrs. Martha Elrod
Melvin Cooper
Jack Ethridge
Pat Turner
William West

and many other people who provided information and pictures for this history.

Due to the lack of time and the fact that there are few written records of the city's past, the Heritage Committee cannot guarantee total accuracy of all dates and statements presented in this book.



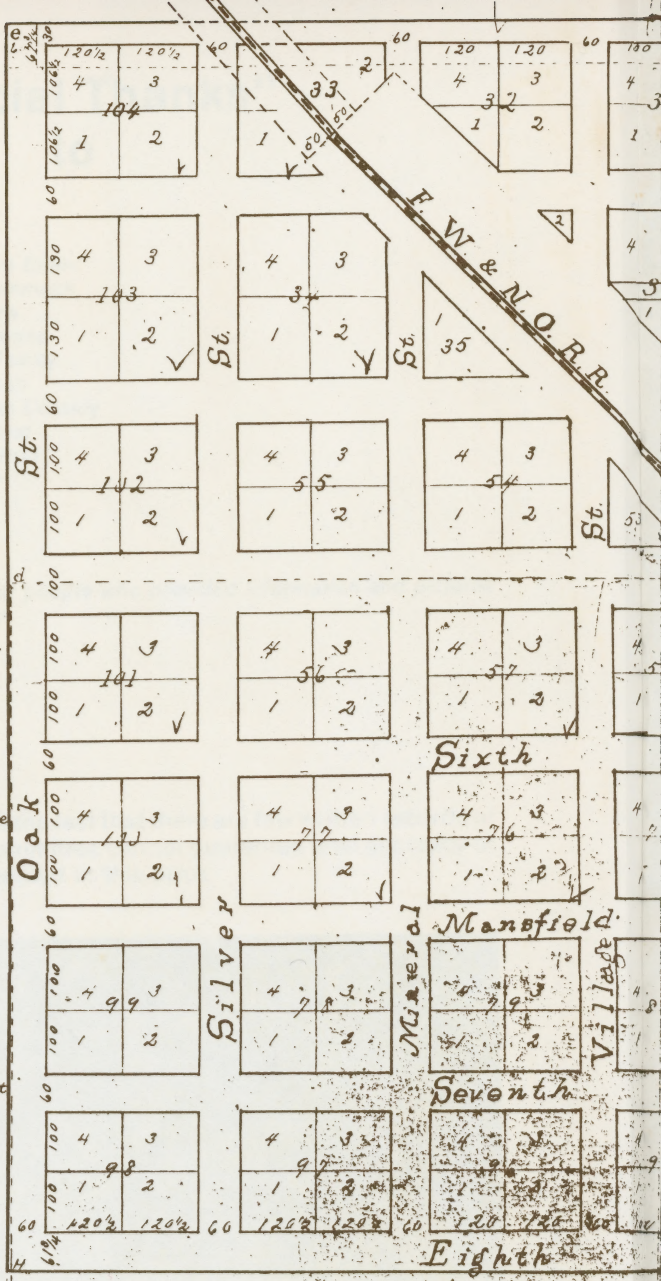
Rhonda Barnes, Heritage Chairman; Committee: Joy Roberts, Sandra Kuykendall, Peggy Wakeland



Explanation

a, On map represents the S.E. corner of the Jacob Prickett survey.
b, The S.E. corner of the C. Rose survey, in the west line of the J.E Renfro survey.
C, The N.E. corner of the 30 acre tract of said Renfro survey.
d, The N.W. corner of the C. B. Teague 160 acre survey, also the S.W. corner of the tract out of the J. Prickett survey.
e, The N.W. corner of the town plat is a point 67¾ feet north of the N.W. corner of the 31 acre tract out of said Prickett survey.
f, The N.E. corner of said 31 acre tract.
g, The N.W. corner of the 30 acre tract out of the C. Rose survey.
H, The S.W. corner of 80 acre tract out of the C.B. Teague survey.
I, The S.E. corner of said 80 acre tract in the E. line of the C.B. Teague survey.
J, The S.W. corner of the Jacob Prickett survey.

Map made by,
Geo. M. Williams,
Surveyor of Tarrant County.



I, ... surveyor, certify, that the above is a true and correct map of the plan of Kendall Terrace Addition, Tarrant County, Texas, as laid off by me on the ground.

Given under my hand at the City of Fort Worth, Texas, this 11th day of Nov. A.D. 1916

G. M. Williams, Surveyor of Tarrant County, Texas.



The State of Texas. } Before me a Notary Public in and
County of Tarrant. } County aforesaid, personally appeared
of the Fort Worth & New Orleans Railway Company, Drivers. Known
C. P. Teague, W. C. Hunter, Thos Rocke and J. J. Rocke to me known to be